



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## CALTRANS ASKS MOTORIST TO STASH THEIR TRASH

**RIVERSIDE** – Research shows that fast food packaging is one of the top three items littered. Everyone has seen people toss trash out their windows, letting it end up on California's highways. To help combat the highway litter problem, today, The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in partnership with The Greater Riverside Chambers program to "Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful," handed out vehicle litterbags to patrons of fast food restaurants in the Riverside area. Restaurants near SR91 and Madison Street in Riverside agreed to let Caltrans give their patrons the message, "Don't Trash California."

At a press conference today, adjacent to McDonalds parking lot overlooking SR91 at Madison Street in Riverside, Caltrans spokeswoman Rose Melgoza reported that last year, Caltrans spent over \$2 million removing litter from state highways in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. As a legislator and former CHP Commander who has driven hundreds of miles on the highway, Assembly Member John Benoit said, "I know this money could have been spent on better roadway improvements." John Fogerty, California Highway Patrol Division Chief said motorists caught littering could be fined \$1,000 each time. That is an expensive way to dispose of trash, Fogerty said.

Caltrans spent \$40 million to remove 11.6 million pounds of litter and debris from state highways throughout California. This is a new year and time to start new good habits. Caltrans reminds motorists that they should put trash in its proper place. Use car litterbags for your food containers and "Keep the I.E. Clean and Beautiful."

**DON'T TRASH  
CALIFORNIA**

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